



Near-highway aerosol and gas-phase measurements in a high-diesel environment

H. L. DeWitt¹, S. Hellebust¹, B. Temime-Roussel¹, S. Ravier¹, L. Polo^{2,3}, V. Jacob², C. Buisson³, A. Charron³, M. André³, A. Pasquier³, J. L. Besombes⁴, J. L. Jaffrezo², H. Wortham¹, and N. Marchand¹

¹Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, LCE FRE 3416, 13331 Marseille, France

²Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, LGGE, 38000 Grenoble, France

³IFSTTAR, Case 24, 69675 Bron CEDEX, France

⁴Université de Savoie, LCME, 73376 Le Bourget du Lac, France

Correspondence to: H. L. DeWitt (helen-langley.dewitt@univ-amu.fr) and N. Marchand (nicolas.marchand@univ-amu.fr)

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Abstract. Diesel-powered passenger cars currently outnumber gasoline-powered cars in many countries, particularly in Europe. In France, diesel cars represented 61 % of light duty vehicles in 2011 and this percentage is still increasing (French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ADEME).

As part of the September 2011 joint PM-DRIVE (Particulate Matter – DiRect and Indirect on-road Vehicular Emissions) and MOCOPO (Measuring and modeling traffic COngestion and POLLution) field campaign, the concentration and high-resolution chemical composition of aerosols and volatile organic carbon species were measured adjacent to a major urban highway south of Grenoble, France. Alongside these atmospheric measurements, detailed traffic data were collected from nearby traffic cameras and loop detectors, which allowed the vehicle type, traffic concentration, and traffic speed to be quantified. Six aerosol age and source profiles were resolved using the positive matrix factorization model on real-time high-resolution aerosol mass spectra. These six aerosol source/age categories included a hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA) commonly associated with primary vehicular emissions, a nitrogen-containing aerosol with a diurnal pattern similar to that of HOA, oxidized organic aerosol (OOA), and biomass burning aerosol. While quantitatively separating the influence of diesel from that of gasoline proved impossible, a low HOA : black carbon ratio, similar to that measured in other high-diesel environments, and high levels of NO_x, also indicative of diesel emissions, were observed. Although the measurement site

was located next to a large source of primary emissions, which are typically found to have low oxygen incorporation, OOA was found to comprise the majority of the measured organic aerosol, and isotopic analysis showed that the measured OOA contained mainly modern carbon, not fossil-derived carbon. Thus, even in this heavily vehicular-emission-impacted environment, photochemical processes, biogenic emissions, and aerosol oxidation dominated the overall organic aerosol mass measured during most of the campaign.

1 Introduction

Aerosols are known to have adverse effects on human health and on the global climate. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently added anthropogenic aerosol and air pollution to their list of known carcinogens (WHO, 2013), and high mass concentrations of particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}), such as those emitted by vehicular combustion processes, are particularly harmful (Lighty et al., 2000). Vehicular traffic is a large source of submicrometer anthropogenic aerosol and proximity to large sources of vehicular emissions has been shown to increase lung and heart disease, especially in children (Brugge et al., 2007). A recent WHO report examined the toxicological effects of black carbon (BC) aerosol, a known emission of diesel vehicles. Although no difference in toxicology between PM_{2.5} and BC aerosol inhalation was found, BC was cited as a marker for

more general vehicular emissions which have been shown to have negative health effects; diesel exhaust was added as a known carcinogen the year before general air pollution and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (Janssen, 2012). Aside from the potential detrimental health effects, BC also has significant implications for climate change. Unlike the majority of aerosol (e.g., most organic aerosol, ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate), BC aerosol is associated with global warming due to its high absorption of solar radiation (Bond et al., 2013). Diesel vehicles have been singled out as important sources of BC to regulate as, unlike most other BC sources, diesel vehicles tend not to co-elute high concentrations of other, less absorbing (thus more cooling) aerosol and therefore have a higher net heating effect than mixed-emission black carbon sources (Bond et al., 2013).

In France, the lower cost of diesel fuel (due to a lower taxation rate of diesel fuel versus gasoline fuel) and the generally higher fuel efficiency of diesel engines have increased the popularity of diesel passenger cars. In 2011, 82 % of the fuel consumed in France was diesel (World Bank, 2011). For comparison, this percentage in 2011 was 28 % in the US, 57 % in China, 70 % in the European Union, 49 % in Latin America and the Middle East, and 83 % in low-income countries.

The emission characteristics and emission limits of these two types of engines (diesel and gasoline) are quite different: diesel vehicles have higher emission factors for primary organic aerosol (POA) and BC, while gasoline-powered vehicles have higher emission factors for carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO_2), and volatile organic carbon (VOCs) (e.g., trimethylbenzene, benzene) (Platt et al., 2013). Black carbon, in particular, is closely associated with diesel: in Europe, North America, and Latin America, an estimated 70 % of BC emissions are from diesel-powered vehicles (Bond et al., 2013). In Marseille, France, a traffic tunnel experiment measured an organic carbon/elemental carbon ratio (OC/EC) in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ of 0.3–0.4, which indicates that significant amounts of black carbon is emitted from local traffic in Marseille (El Haddad et al., 2009). Recent measures have been taken in Europe to reduce the particulate emission from diesel vehicles: from Euro 4 to Euro 5, a diesel particle filter was introduced in diesel vehicles and the regulated emission limit for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ was halved for diesel cars and trucks.

Aerosol and VOC emissions from both vehicle types, as well as biogenic emissions, industrial emissions, and emissions from other sources, will react together in the atmosphere and potentially form secondary organic aerosol (SOA). Thus, primary aerosol emissions may not be the most important emission factor to take into account for global reduction in anthropogenic aerosol. After emission, VOCs can react in the atmosphere and form SOA. From these reactions, gasoline VOC emissions could ultimately lead to the formation of higher concentrations of organic aerosol than organic aerosol released directly from diesel vehicles, as reported in a recent study comparing the SOA formation from a Euro 3

diesel light-duty vehicle (LDV) and a Euro 5 gasoline LDV (Platt et al., 2013).

A recent study by Bahreini et al. (2012) measured similar levels of SOA in the heavily traffic-influenced Los Angeles Basin during both weekend and weekday afternoons. While diesel-powered vehicle numbers on the road decrease significantly on the weekends in the LA area, the measured SOA does not, which leads to the conclusion that gasoline emissions are more responsible for SOA than diesel emissions (Bahreini et al., 2012). Nordin et al. (2013) performed smog-chamber studies on SOA formation from gasoline-vehicle VOC emissions during simulated cold start and idling driving conditions and confirmed the high potential of SOA formation from gasoline car exhaust. Another recent paper calculates the reactivity potential of diesel and gasoline fuel and comes to the opposite conclusion: due to the reactivity potential of diesel fuel, diesel-powered vehicles should contribute greater amounts of SOA than gasoline-powered vehicles to the atmosphere (Gentner et al., 2012). Thus, controversy still exists regarding the eventual aerosol emission factors of diesel and gasoline engines when considering both primary emissions and potential SOA formation.

Finally, gas-phase NO and NO_2 (NO_x) ambient concentrations are also mostly associated with diesel fuel use (Vestreng et al., 2009). Throughout Europe, while NO_x emission standards for diesel vehicles have increased in stringency in recent years, ambient NO_2 levels have not shown a corresponding decrease (Vestreng et al., 2009). The reduction of atmospheric NO_x is important for health-related reasons, as an increase in NO_x leads to an increase in tropospheric ozone, which is a known lung irritant. NO_x levels have also been shown to affect the formation rate, formation pathways, and chemical composition of secondary organic aerosol from the reaction of primary species in numerous chamber studies (e.g., Carlton et al., 2009; Kroll et al., 2005; Ng et al., 2007, 2008; Presto et al., 2010).

European vehicular emissions, near-highway pollution levels, and the chemical composition of highway pollution may be quite different than those measured in North America due to many factors, including (1) different emission standards and fuel regulations in the two regions, (2) different after-treatment devices to reduce the emission of certain pollutants, and (3) a much larger percentage of diesel-powered passenger cars on the road. A comparison between European and North American near-highway measurements could lead to further understanding of the effects of diesel versus gasoline on near-highway atmospheric chemistry.

To fully categorize the aerosol, VOC, and NO_x emissions of traffic in France, the joint PM-DRIVE (Particulate Matter-DiRect and Indirect on-road Vehicular Emissions) and MOCOPO (Measuring and modeling traffic COngestion and POLLution) field mission took place in the Grenoble basin, France, during the fall of 2011 at a near-highway location south of the city center. During the field measurements discussed in this paper, traffic cameras allowed vehicle

type determination through license plate automatic identification. Traffic densities, speed, and total flow were quantified through loop detectors, while measurements of the chemical composition, concentration, and size of aerosol were collected using both real-time and offline analysis, and parallel data on the gas-phase chemical composition of the roadway-adjacent environment were also collected. A source apportionment model was applied to real-time aerosol chemical composition data. Particular attention was paid to the chemical composition of particles and VOCs emitted during morning and evening rush hours in an attempt to elucidate the primary vehicular influence on near-highway air pollution.

2 Experimental methods

2.1 Description of the measurement site

The sampling site was located at 45.150641° N, 5.726028° E (Fig. 1), just south of Grenoble, France, adjacent to a major highway (south of E712, with A480 2 km to the east). During the week, the total traffic on the highway was about 95 000 vehicles day⁻¹ (65 000 during the weekend). Grenoble, a large city with over half a million people, is located in the southeast of France at the foothills of the Alps. The surrounding mountain ranges both buffer the Grenoble area from the effects of transported aerosol and trap pollution within the valley, particularly during the winter months and periods of temperature inversions. The isolating effect of the mountains thus simplifies the potential sources for aerosol, making it an interesting location for the study of specific aerosol emission sources.

2.2 Traffic cameras and loop detectors

Traffic cameras mounted to a roadway sign were used to capture the license plate numbers of vehicles driven on the highway close to the field measurement site. These numbers were later used to classify vehicular traffic into different categories: vehicle type (LDV, heavy-duty vehicles, buses) and age, vehicle size and engine capacity, fuel type (diesel or gasoline), and Euro number (i.e., the pollutant emission regulation that the vehicle complies with). The speed of the passing vehicles was also monitored with the classical traffic detector (double electromagnetic loops able to identify the passing of all vehicles and their speeds), which allowed the identification of periods of stop-and-go, dense, or free-flow traffic.

2.3 MASSALYA platform

The MASSALYA platform is a mobile laboratory equipped for air quality measurements with a hub located at the Aix-Marseille Université. For the field campaign, PM_{2.5} and PM₁ sampling heads situated above the roof of the stationary truck were connected to a variety of online instrumentation located

within the truck body. Complementary offline analysis was performed on filter samples collected by HiVol samplers located adjacent to the MASSALYA platform. All sampling occurred approximately 15 m from one of the traffic lines, as shown in Fig. 1. Further details can be found in Polo-Rehn (2013).

A high-resolution time-of-flight aerosol mass spectrometer (HR-ToF-AMS, Aerodyne) was used to analyze the chemical composition, size, and concentration of non-refractory submicrometer particles in the ambient atmosphere (DeCarlo et al., 2006). Instrument specifications have been discussed in detail elsewhere (DeCarlo et al., 2006). Briefly, both high-resolution and size-speciated chemical information for ambient aerosol were obtained from this instrument. Aerosols were vaporized at 600 °C, ionized using electron ionization at an energy of 70 eV, and the chemical composition of bulk aerosol was measured using a ToF mass spectrometer (TOFWERK). Aerosol spectra were continuously collected and a 2.5 min average spectrum was obtained. Aerosol vacuum aerodynamic diameter was calculated by setting a particle start time using a chopper wheel and measuring the particle flight time along the particle ToF sizing region (DeCarlo et al., 2006). Typical resolution during the campaign was around 2800 m / Δm (where m = nominal m/z and Δm = full-width at half max of the mass peak).

In addition to the HR-ToF-AMS, a size-mobility particle scanner (SMPS, TSI) was used to measure the size distribution and concentration of ambient aerosol and a multiangle absorption photometer (MAAP 5012, ThermoFischer) was used to measure the concentration of black carbon.

High-resolution mass spectra of VOCs were obtained using an Ionicon proton-transfer-reaction time-of-flight mass spectrometer 8000 (PTR-ToF-MS, hereafter referred to as PTR-MS) (Graus et al., 2010). The PTR-MS analyzes trace (parts per trillion by volume) VOCs with high mass resolution, which allows the separation of different species with the same nominal mass and the identification of each peak's elemental formula. The PTR-MS was run with a 25 s time resolution and a flow of 100 cm³ min⁻¹. Drift tube parameters of the PTR-MS were as follows: voltage was 560 V, drift tube pressure was 2.11 mbar, and drift tube temperature was 333 K, resulting in an E/N (electric field / number concentration of neutral particles) of 133 Td.

The SMPS, PTR-MS, and HR-ToF-AMS were connected to the same sample inlet with a PM_{2.5} sampling head and a sample flow of 1 m³ h⁻¹. Particles were dried (RH < 30 %) using a Nafion dryer prior to measurement with the HR-ToF-AMS and SMPS. The MAAP was connected to a separate PM₁ sampling head. PM₁ filter HiVol (30 m³ h⁻¹) samples were collected on quartz filters (Tissuquartz) on a daily basis and analyzed for radiocarbon isotope data. Radiocarbon measurements were conducted at Saclay (CNRS-CEA-IRD-IRSN, France) using ARTEMIS accelerator mass spectrometry on the total carbon (TC) fraction after a combustion of

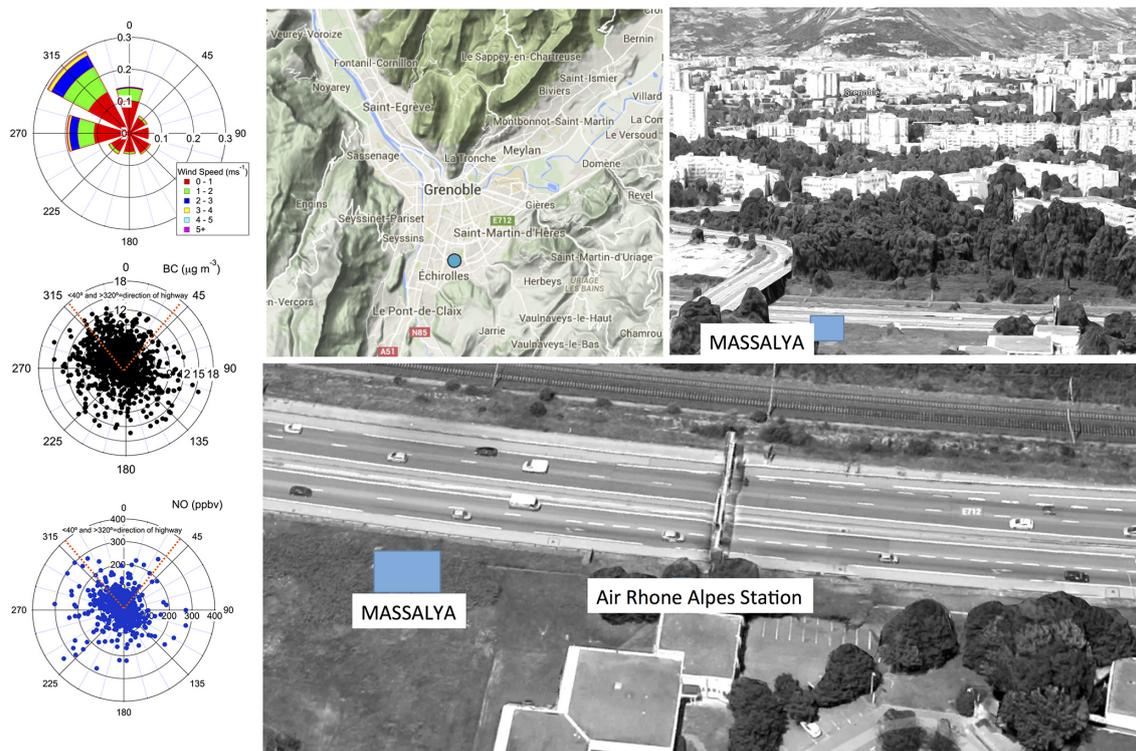


Figure 1. The measurement site location is marked by a red square on the map, and the adjacent highway has been colored in red. A detailed view of the measurement site and the two measurement stations is shown in the lower right-hand corner; in the upper right-hand corner is the wind rose and polar plots for black carbon and NO, with the red lines denoting the direction of the highway. Grenoble is to the north.

the samples at 850 °C. The method is fully described in El Haddad et al. (2011).

A Young meteorological station was also installed to capture wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity, and temperature data at the measurement location.

2.4 Air Rhône-Alpes station

The Air Rhône-Alpes station collected PM_{2.5} HiVol (30 m³ h⁻¹) samples on quartz fiber filters (Tissuquartz) 20 m east of the MASSALYA platform, still adjacent to the highway, with a time resolution of 4 h. PM_{2.5} samples were analyzed for EC / OC, inorganic ions, and targeted organic tracers (Polo-Rehn, 2013).

Organic compounds in these PM samples were also quantified by gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry, following the method detailed in El Haddad et al. (2009) and Favez et al. (2010). EC and OC measurements were performed using the thermal-optical transmittance (TOT) method on a Sunset Lab analyzer (Birch and Cary, 1996; Jaffrezo et al., 2005) following the EUSAAR2 temperature program (Cavalli et al., 2010). Ionic species were analyzed with ionic chromatography following the method described in Jaffrezo et al. (1998).

All filters used in this study were preheated at 500 °C during 3 h. Samples were stored at −18 °C in aluminum foil and sealed in polyethylene bags until analysis.

In addition, NO_x (NO and NO₂), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} mass concentrations were measured and a tapered element oscillating microbalance equipped with a filter dynamic measurement system (TEOM-FDMS, Thermo Scientific) was used for real-time measurements of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Traffic conditions at the measurement site

A detailed view of the measured traffic is presented in the Supplement (Fig. S1). Briefly, the overall makeup of the traffic remained fairly steady throughout the campaign. The bulk of the vehicles directly affecting the measurement site were Euro 4 (released in 2005) or older; thus, the most recent emission regulations had only a small effect on the air quality around the field site. The ratio of diesel to gasoline cars was found to be 2.6, or 72 % diesel, with a high correlation ($R^2 = 0.96$) between diesel and gasoline vehicles.

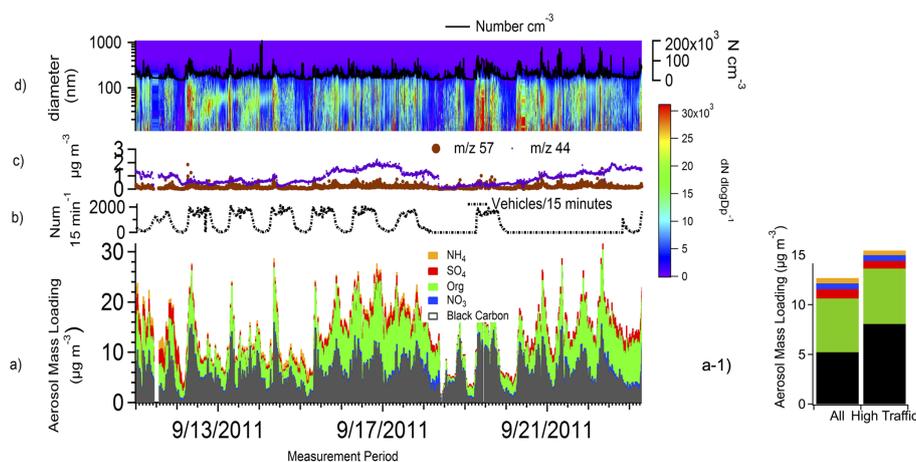


Figure 2. The non-refractory submicrometer aerosol concentration in $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ of SO_4 , NH_4 , NO_3 , and organic species is plotted along with black carbon for the campaign time series. **(a)** Traffic concentration 15 min (missing data due to malfunction in the traffic cameras on those days); **(b)** COO^+ (m/z 44) **(c)** and C_4H_9^+ (m/z 57); and **(d)** the number-weighted geometric size distribution with the total number concentration of particles as a function of time (right axis). The inset **(a-1)** shows average concentrations of the species in **(a)** for high-traffic and all traffic periods. The color legend is the same for **(a)** and **(a-1)**.

3.2 General atmospheric conditions and aerosol and VOC concentrations and evolution

Wind speeds were generally low throughout the campaign ($< 1\text{--}2\text{ m s}^{-1}$) with higher wind speeds peaking in the afternoons and tapering off in the evenings. The wind direction was primarily from the northwest, from the direction of the nearby highway. A diagram of the two measurement stations, the wind rose plot for the MASSALYA location, and polar plots showing the concentration of NO and BC as a function of wind direction are shown in Fig. 1. BC and NO were associated with all wind directions, though slightly higher from the highway direction, which suggested that the measurement site was influenced by both traffic emissions and also often by regional, traffic-influenced background air masses. In order to better describe the traffic influence, we defined high-traffic (HT) periods within the data set. These HT periods were selected as follows: (i) wind direction > 40 or < 320 , (ii) NO in the 75th percentile, (iii) from 06:30 to 09:30 or 17:00 to 20:00 LT (rush hour periods). The fixed location of the measurement stations made determination of concentration drop-off as a function of distance from the roadway impossible with the data set, although that has been shown to be important in other studies (such as Karner et al., 2010). However, the measurements were all taken closer to the roadway ($\sim 15\text{ m}$) than the calculated distance where roadway emission drops off to background levels (115–570 m, Karner et al., 2010).

The campaign time series concentration of submicrometer non-refractory aerosol sulfate (SO_4), ammonium (NH_4), nitrate (NO_3), and organic species from the HR-ToF-AMS is shown in Fig. 2a. The limit of detection for each species was calculated using the method described by DeCarlo et

al. (2006) and found to be 0.30, 0.21, 0.06, and $0.33\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for SO_4 , NH_4 , NO_3 , and organic aerosol, respectively, for our measurements with a time resolution of 2.5 min. A collection efficiency (CE) of 0.75 was applied to HR-ToF-AMS aerosol concentration measurements taken during this campaign. The CE factor compensates for incomplete vaporization of non-refractory species due to particle bounce, the likelihood of which changes with particle phase and chemical speciation (Huffman et al., 2005; Matthew et al., 2008). This CE was calculated by comparing the HR-ToF-AMS SO_4 concentrations to 4 h filter concentrations (Fig. S2). This comparison gave a value of 0.75 ± 0.03 for the slope between the two types of measurements.

$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ averaged $17\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ for the campaign (Fig. S3) while PM_{10} averaged $22\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$. These values increased slightly during HT periods (a 1.3 and $1.25\times$ increase, respectively). Black carbon and organic aerosol species dominated the measured aerosol composition throughout the campaign, and comprised 39 and 40% of the total speciated submicrometer aerosol, respectively. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ had a somewhat higher mass variation than the AMS + BC measured mass (Fig. S3), likely due to the smaller measurement size cut-off for AMS ($1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) and the presence of road dust in the local environment, a large portion of which may be non-refractory and thus unable to be measured by the AMS. Increases in BC and the aerosol marker m/z 57 (C_4H_9^+), a marker for primary organic carbon in the HR-ToF-AMS (Zhang et al., 2005), correlated in time to the observed morning and evening traffic peaks (Fig. 2b), with BC levels reaching $10\text{--}16\text{ }\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ during the mornings (Fig. 2a) for 2.5 min averaged measurements. As expected, an increase of BC and m/z 57 ($1.5\times$) was observed during HT periods. Note that BC concentrations during high filter loadings (BC accumula-

tion rate $> 0.14 \mu\text{g min}^{-1}$) have been removed to compensate for the underestimation of BC by the MAAP during periods of high concentrations (Hyvärinen et al., 2013). Along with increased concentrations of m/z 57 and BC, elevated number concentrations of small particles (up to $1\text{--}2 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ during peaks from daily base levels of $2\text{--}4 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) were observed during periods of HT (Fig. 2d), for 5 min measurements. BC and m/z 57 had similar daily averages throughout the campaign; however, overall organic concentration rose significantly during the period from 12 to 14 September and 15 to 17 September, when particle growth events were observed (Fig. 2d). The geometric number mode diameter rose over the course of each day to a maximum diameter each afternoon, when photochemical processing was the most intense. A marker for oxidized, aged organic aerosol (Fig. 2c, m/z 44, COO^+) also rose in concentration during this time period, further confirming that the larger aerosol and higher organic mass concentrations were due to aging and secondary organic aerosol formation processes. A period of heavy rain on 18 and 19 September removed much of the organic aerosol from the local atmosphere. Black carbon concentrations and small particle concentrations quickly returned to their previous levels. A new accumulation period was observed after rainfall (Fig. 2d), with the mode diameter of particles increasing as secondary aerosol was formed again. The slow rise of organic concentration during these periods, the lower BC : organic mass ratio, the enhancement of organic concentration outside of normal traffic periods, and the low level of NO during these accumulation periods all suggest that this increase in organic aerosol concentration was driven by regional influences, not by nearby vehicular emissions; a more southerly wind direction during this time confirmed the transport of non-highway air masses to the measurement site.

These findings are similar to those presented recently by Sun et al. (2012), who measured aerosol size and chemical composition adjacent to the Long Island Expressway in New York and observed that traffic-influenced aerosol emissions were primarily small particles which varied in concentration with changes in traffic throughout the day. During periods with less traffic influence, more-oxygenated organic aerosol (OOA) and inorganic ions with larger mode diameters and lower temporal variations were observed (Sun et al., 2012).

The time series concentrations of selected VOC peaks are shown in Fig. 3. Primary traffic-related VOC species, such as aromatics (benzene and trimethylbenzene), were found to have high temporal variations similar to those of traffic-related aerosol species and NO_x (Fig. 4c and d). NO_x levels were often over 400 ppbv during the morning rush hours, while the PTRMS peak corresponding (in part) to toluene and benzene peaked around 2 to 1 ppbv (respectively). During a recent chamber study in Ispra, Italy, fresh diesel emissions PTR-MS VOC spectra were found to contain peaks with the same mass as CH_4NO_2^+ and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$ (Hellebust et al., 2013), which are not present in fresh gasoline emis-

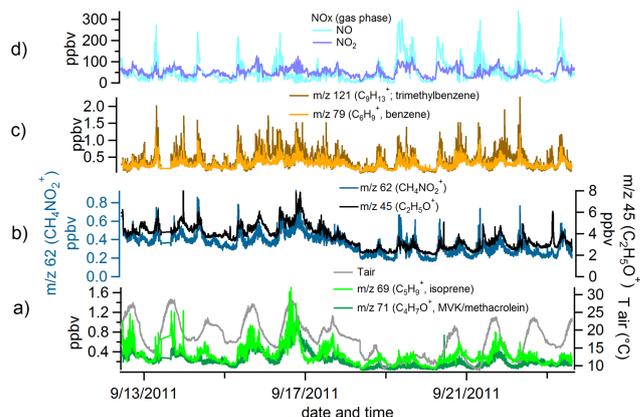


Figure 3. The concentration in ppbv of PTR-MS VOC species-identified isoprene and methyl vinyl ketone/methacrolein (left axis, **a**), VOC species associated with diesel exhaust (CH_4NO_2^+ , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O}^+$, **b**), VOC species associated with gasoline exhaust (C_6H_7^+ , $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}^+$, **c**). NO and NO_2 (gas-phase) ppbv concentrations (**d**) and ambient temperature (right axis, **a**) during the measurement period are also shown.

sions. These same peaks were also observed during this work and found to vary with traffic during this measurement period but had a smoother variation than the observed aromatics (Fig. 3b). While this species is unique for fresh diesel emissions versus gasoline emissions, aging processes occur rapidly and other sources may contribute to this mass peak. Thus, these species, while increasing with traffic, cannot be assumed to be tracers for primary diesel emissions in particular; no high-concentration unique tracer peak for diesel VOC emissions was resolved from the fresh diesel emission spectra in these chamber experiments (Hellebust et al., 2013). A slight increase of the traffic-related VOCs ($1.2 \times$ for benzene and trimethylbenzene) was observed during HT periods compared to the campaign average. For CH_4NO_2^+ this relative increase during HT periods is lower (8%), which could confirm multiple sources of this compound.

In addition to traffic-related VOC emissions, mass peaks corresponding in exact mass to biogenic emissions, such as isoprene, were measured in ppbv levels. These peaks were found to rise in concentration with the ambient temperature (Fig. 3a), typical of isoprene peaks. The presence of isoprene and its oxidation product, methyl vinyl ketone, or its isomer methacrolein in similar concentrations as that of the major traffic-related VOC peaks (ppbv levels) suggested that biogenic emissions also significantly influenced the local atmosphere despite close proximity to anthropogenic emission sources (i.e., road traffic).

The high morning concentrations of traffic-related pollutants, compared to evening concentrations, were caused in part by a low early morning boundary layer that rose during the day and fell during the night. Boundary layer heights (BLH) were estimated using the Hybrid Single Particle La-

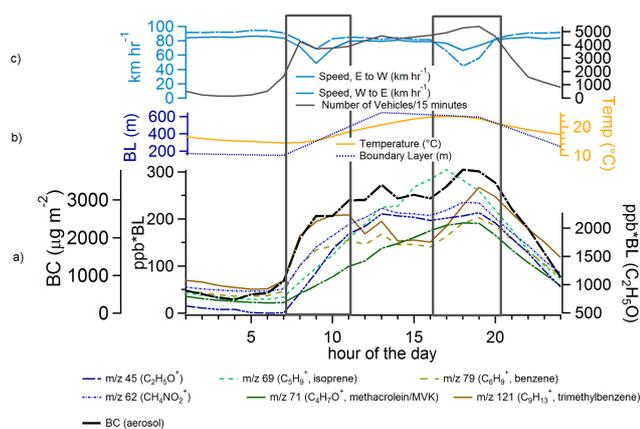


Figure 4. Diurnal profiles of boundary-layer scaled VOC peaks from PTR-MS measurements and BC peaks from MAAP measurements (a), temperature (right axis, b), boundary layer height (left axis, b), vehicular speed (left axis, c), and vehicle concentration (right axis, c).

grangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) back-trajectory model. The HYSPLIT model either extracts the BLH from meteorological file input into the model or, if no BLH exists in the meteorological file, BLH is estimated using the vertical temperature profile. A selection of the BLH-scaled diurnal profiles of traffic and biogenic emission-related VOC concentrations are shown in Fig. 4a along with traffic (speed, vehicular flux) diurnal profiles and the calculated boundary layer heights and measured temperatures (Fig. 4b and c). This calculation was performed to more directly compare vehicle concentration and speed to vehicular emissions and temperature with biogenic emissions (by removing the dilution of emissions by the changing boundary layer height). Biogenic species, such as isoprene, peaked in concentration during the afternoon, when temperatures were the warmest. Aromatic species peaked in concentration, even after the rough boundary layer scaling was applied, during periods of low speeds. This is consistent with other findings that show cold starts and idling speeds cause an increase in aromatic VOC emissions from gasoline-powered vehicles (e.g., Broderick and Marnane, 2002).

3.3 Positive matrix factorization (PMF) analysis

The PMF model was applied to the HR-ToF-AMS aerosol data using the process described in detail by Ulbrich et al. (2009). Six aerosol factors were resolved by their source and relative aging using the PMF model: a hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA) factor, a regional oxidized organic aerosol (OOA-Reg) factor associated with sulfate aerosol, two oxidized organic aerosol factors with opposing diurnal patterns, one more oxidized than the other (less-oxidized organic aerosol, or LO-OA, with peak concentration during the mornings/nights, and more-oxidized organic aerosol, or

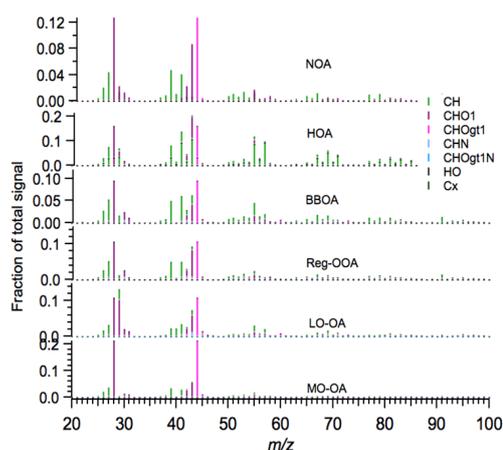


Figure 5. The mass spectra of the six resolved factors, more-oxidized organic aerosol (MO-OA), less-oxidized organic aerosol (LO-OA), regional oxidized organic aerosol (OOA-Reg), biomass burning organic aerosol (BBOA), hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), and nitrogen-containing organic aerosol (NOA). Fraction of total signal is plotted against m/z and the peaks are color-coded to show their high-resolution identifications.

MO-OA, with peak concentrations during the afternoons), a biomass-burning organic aerosol factor (BBOA), and a nitrogen-containing organic aerosol factor (NOA). The mass spectra for the six resolved factors is shown in Fig. 5, labeled with their identifications. Evaluation graphs for the six-factor PMF solution are shown in the Supplement (Figs. S5–S8). Polar plots of the factor concentrations and wind direction are shown in Fig. S9. A six-factor solution was the lowest number of factors where a BBOA factor was resolved; BBOA was suspected to be present in the air mass measured during the campaign due to periods of increased levoglucosan measured on filter samples. However, its concentrations were very low (15 ng m^{-3} on average; Polo-Rehn, 2013) compared to concentrations measured in Grenoble in winter (around 800 ng m^{-3} ; Herich et al., 2014). Solutions with more than six factors appeared to split the OOA factor further until differences between each OOA factor were difficult to justify. The calculated elemental ratios of O : C, H : C, and organic mass : organic carbon (OM : OC) (Aiken et al., 2008) are shown in Table 1.

The diurnal pattern and the relative concentrations of each resolved factor, averaged over the campaign period, are shown in Fig. 6, along with the standard deviation of their concentrations. Morning and evening peaks, correlating in time to rush hour traffic, were clearly observable for the HOA factor. Also clearly visible in Fig. 6a are the opposing diurnal trends of LO-OA (peaking at night and early morning) and MO-OA (peaking around 3 p.m. LT each afternoon). OOA-Reg had no discernable diurnal trend. An interesting finding in these data is that the HOA and NOA factor concentrations both peaked during morning and evening high-traffic peri-

Table 1. PMF factors and their calculated organic mass to organic carbon (OM : OC) ratio, their hydrogen to carbon (H : C) ratio, and their oxygen to carbon (O : C) ratio. PMF factors are hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), nitrogen-containing organic aerosol (NOA), less-oxidized organic aerosol (LO-OA), more-oxidized organic aerosol (MO-OA), biomass burning organic aerosol (BBOA), and regional oxidized organic aerosol (OOA-Reg).

PMF factor	OM : OC	H : C	O : C
HOA	1.25	1.89	0.07
NOA	1.69	1.38	0.4
LO-OA	1.74	1.34	0.47
MO-OA	2.15	1.16	0.78
BBOA	1.56	1.47	0.32
OOA-Reg	1.85	1.54	0.52

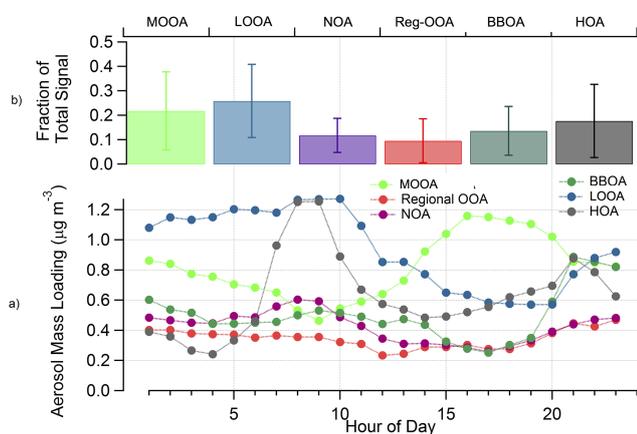


Figure 6. The diurnal profiles (a) and concentration and standard deviation of the six resolved aerosol factors (b).

ods (Fig. 6a). This is not the general behavior demonstrated in most studies for the NOA factor, although a similar NOA factor has been previously measured in the Po Valley, Italy (Saarikoski et al., 2012). This behavior was confirmed by examining HT periods, with an increase of $1.3 \times$ and $1.9 \times$ for NOA and HOA concentrations, respectively, during HT periods. While many of the defined N-containing peaks were adjacent to or in-between those of larger hydrocarbons or of other organics, only N-containing peaks whose fitting significantly reduced the residual mass at each unit mass were fit (Fig. S8). Additionally, and when possible, the w-ToF (high resolution, non-quantitative) mode data were examined to determine if the N-containing peak was resolved enough from neighboring peaks for certain identification.

In Fig. 7, the time series of each factor are shown with oxalate ($\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$, a marker for aged and oxidized organic aerosol), sulfates, and levoglucosan (a marker for biomass burning) measurements from filter samples. Table 2 summarizes the R^2 values between key tracer species and the resolved aerosol factors. The two main factors resolved, in terms of mass concentration, were the OOA factors with

Table 2. Correlation between AMS organic PMF factors and other tracer species, from filter samples (oxalate, levoglucosan), AMS data (sulfate), and MAAP data (BC). PMF factors are hydrocarbon-like organic aerosol (HOA), nitrogen-containing organic aerosol (NOA), less-oxidized organic aerosol (LO-OA), more-oxidized organic aerosol (MO-OA), biomass burning organic aerosol (BBOA), and regional oxidized organic aerosol (OOA-Reg).

PMF FACTOR	Oxalate ($N = 53$) R^2	BC ^a ($N = 3928$) R^2	Levoglucosan ($N = 38$) R^2	Sulfate ($N = 3328$) ^b R^2
HOA	0.01	0.58	0.12	0.004
BBOA	0.04	0.05	0.65	0.005
MO-OA	0.50	0.01	0.02	0.54
LO-OA	0.32	0.01	0.08	0.07
NOA	0.01	0.09	0.12	0.06
OOA-Reg	0.62	0.02	0.01	0.65

^a BC data smoothed to remove underestimated BC concentrations during periods of high filter loading (Hyyvärinen et al., 2013). ^b R^2 value calculated after initial high SO_4 period.

opposite diurnal trends, MO-OA and LO-OA. The concentration of MO-OA rose as the aerosol number-weighted geometric mode diameter rose, also indicative of increasing aerosol age/coagulation. The LO-OA factor resembled a semi-volatile oxidized organic aerosol factor reported by Docherty et al. (2008) measured during the Study of Organic Aerosols (SOAR) project in Riverside, CA, which was also found to decrease during the afternoon as temperature and photochemical processing increased. The chemical differences between these two spectra are shown in Fig. S10 and described in the Supplement. The increase in MO-OA concentration occurred both as the PTR-MS isoprene signal was increasing (also a temperature-related process) and as the 9-carbon aromatic : benzene ($\text{C}_9\text{H}_{13}^+ : \text{C}_6\text{H}_7^+$) VOC ratio was at its minimum (related to photochemical age of air mass; Parrish et al., 2007). Thus, the increase MO-OA could be linked to photochemical aging of vehicular emissions during the day and/or increasing biogenic VOC emissions and their subsequent photochemical aging and condensation into aerosol form.

The BBOA factor was found to correlate with levoglucosan ($R^2 = 0.65$, $n = 38$); while significant levels of biomass burning from wood-burning stoves and other combustion-related heating are known to affect the Grenoble Valley in winter, such a large contribution during this season is surprising. Likely the PMF-resolved BBOA factor was somewhat mixed with emissions with close spectral signature (vehicular emissions or potentially cooking aerosol emissions). Episodic local yard-waste burning could also have contributed to the bulk aerosol spectrum, as spikes in the BBOA concentration do not appear to correlate with a particular wind direction (Fig. S9). The ratio of levoglucosan : BBOA is quite low (0.03); however, it is within the order of magnitude of previously reported measurements (e.g., 0.06; Aiken et al., 2009). Additionally, the higher levels of oxidants found in the atmosphere in the summer could cause

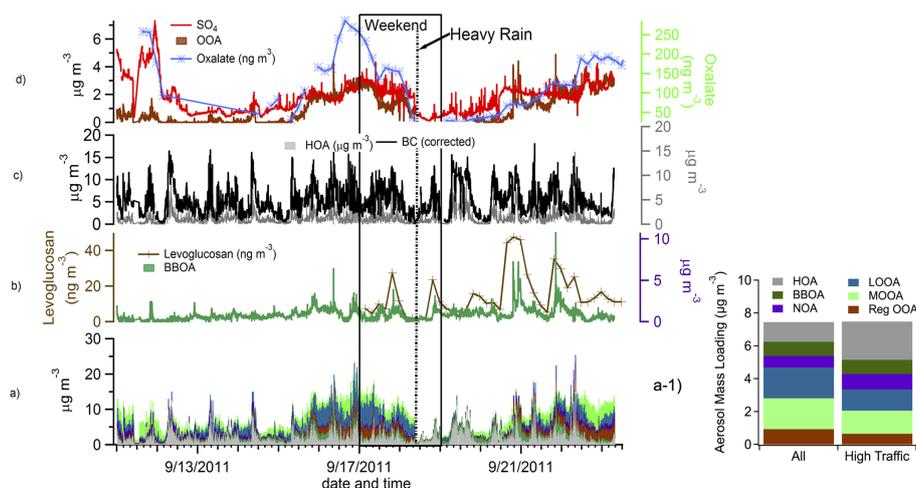


Figure 7. The time series of the six-factor PMF solution (**a**); the resolved BBOA factor time series concentration (right axis, **b**), and offline levoglucosan measurements (left axis, **b**); the resolved HOA factor time series concentration and BC (right axis, **c**); HR-ToF-AMS-measured SO_4 and the resolved regional OOA factor (left axis, **d**) and offline oxalate measurements (right axis, **d**). The inset (**a-1**) shows the calculated mass contribution during all (left) and high-traffic (right) periods of each resolved PMF factor (same color legend for **a** and **a-1**).

a faster degradation of levoglucosan in the atmosphere after emission (Hennigan et al., 2010). Thus, the BBOA concentrations reported here shall be considered as an upper limit of the biomass burning contribution.

Oxalate and OOA-Reg covaried with an R^2 of 0.62 ($n = 53$). Regional OOA was identified as such due to its low temporal variation, its correlation with SO_4 , and a low correlation with wind direction (Fig. S8). This factor was removed from the atmosphere during periods of rain and experienced a slow recovery afterwards. At the beginning of the experiment (11–13 September), regional OOA and SO_4 did not correspond; however, during the middle and end of the campaign, temporal variations of the regional OOA and SO_4 corresponded fairly well ($R^2 = 0.65$, $n = 3328$). The reason for the initial high SO_4 and low regional OOA is unclear from the data set as is; however, MO-OA and SO_4 also had similar time series trends ($R^2 = 0.50$, $n = 3328$) and MO-OA was high at the beginning of the campaign. The closeness of the two spectra's composition, as well as the nature of the aerosol type (not from a specific source but rather aged bulk organic aerosol), in which variations would logically occur, may have led to the imprecise separation of these two factor types.

Of the factors resolved, the HOA factor had the lowest O : C ratio (0.07) and a good ($R^2 = 0.58$, $n = 3928$) correlation with BC concentration. The mass spectrum of the resolved HOA factor highly resembled ($R^2 > 0.95$, $n = 100$) previously resolved HOA factors and direct AMS measurements of diesel and gasoline emissions (Mohr et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2005). HOA was not the largest average contributor to the bulk measured aerosol mass over the campaign period, despite the fact that these measurements were conducted 15 m from a major highway. The relative size of each type of particle (primary, or HOA, and OOA) likely played

a major role in the relative mass concentrations of each factor (Fig. S11 and discussion), and the higher increase above background of particle number versus particle mass found in this study agrees with previous studies (Karner et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2012). The variability of each factor over the campaign was high as, unlike measurements in more rural areas, the proximity to a primary aerosol source (highway) and to an urban center (Grenoble) as well as large green spaces (the Alps) allowed the full range of aged and locally transported aerosol to be observed at this station.

3.3.1 Fossil and modern carbon

A source of uncertainty in the global particulate emissions of vehicles is the formation of SOA from gas-phase emissions and the aging of POA. To discriminate between the relative concentration of modern and fossil carbon, and thus potentially discriminate between OOA from vehicular sources and from modern sources, daily filter samples were collected at the sampling site and ^{14}C radiocarbon measurements were performed. From these measurements, the percentage of modern carbon from TC (OC + EC) was calculated. Modern carbon varied from 15 to 36% of the total aerosol carbon, a significant portion of the measured carbon considering the close proximity of the measurements to fossil carbon sources. In France, the contribution of biofuel was about 7 and 5% for diesel and gasoline fuel, respectively, in 2011 (UFIP, Union Française des Industries Pétrolières, 2011) and cannot explain this relatively high proportion of modern carbon observed in the particulate matter. This is similar to findings shown in Hodzic et al. (2010), Minguilón et al. (2011), and El Haddad et al. (2013) which indicate that modern carbon is often a significant portion of the car-

bonaceous fraction of PM, even in cities with high vehicular emissions (e.g., Mexico City, Barcelona, or Marseille).

As radiocarbon measurements have been performed through a thermal approach (combustion of the samples at 850 °C), we consider in the following section EC measured by the thermal–optical method. As shown in Fig. S12, EC and BC agree well at low mass loadings but have a wider scatter in the data at higher mass loadings. The calculation of BC (measured by the MAAP) using an absorption cross-section is imprecise and, at high loadings of BC, may under- or overestimate this mass loading. Figure S12 shows a comparison between the MAAP (BC) and thermal measurement (EC) data, with a 1 : 1 line. As the thermal–optical analysis of EC is a more direct analysis, EC was chosen to be used in this calculation.

Assuming that the majority of EC was traffic-related and thus from fossil origin, the concentration of modern organic carbon and fossil organic carbon was then calculated. While evidence for the presence of biomass burning aerosol was measured at the field site, the main source of EC was likely diesel exhaust. Figure 8 shows the fraction of EC and OC, HOA, and a partitioning between fossil and modern carbon. In Fig. 8a, a rough calculation was performed to determine the concentration of non-primary fossil organic carbon. For a first estimate, all EC was assumed to be fossil in origin. Additionally, the HOA aerosol was also assumed to be vehicular, and thus fossil, in origin. The HOA factor concentration has been divided by its OM : OC ratio to remove any non-carbon mass (HOA C, calculated from the elemental formulas of the PMF factor mass spectra; Aiken et al., 2008). Both EC and HOA C had high ($R^2 = 0.89$ and 0.85 , respectively, $n = 10$) correlations with the fossil C mass, which supported a largely fossil source for these two species. The remaining fossil organic carbon mass after subtraction was then assumed to be from non-primary sources (in light blue).

This calculation provided a lower estimate of the amount of fossil carbon contributing to SOA mass and involves several assumptions and potential sources of error. Sources of error in this calculation include error in the PMF resolution of primary (HOA) organic aerosol spectra and error in the calculated OM : OC ratio of this factor species, biodiesel vehicular emissions contributing modern carbon to measured HOA, and biomass burning aerosol contributing modern carbon to measured EC.

As the measured HOA : EC ratio was in line with previous measurements in high-diesel environments, HOA concentrations did not appear to be significantly over- or underestimated. Up to 7 % of fuel use in France was biodiesel; thus, part of the HOA concentration could be from modern sources. While research has shown that the use of biodiesel fuels reduces the overall primary particulate matter emissions (Cheung et al., 2010), biodiesel could still be a modern carbon contributor to OC and EC mass. Additionally, although the concentration of BBOA was generally low (a campaign average of $0.34 \pm 0.23 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and the ratio of BBOA : EC

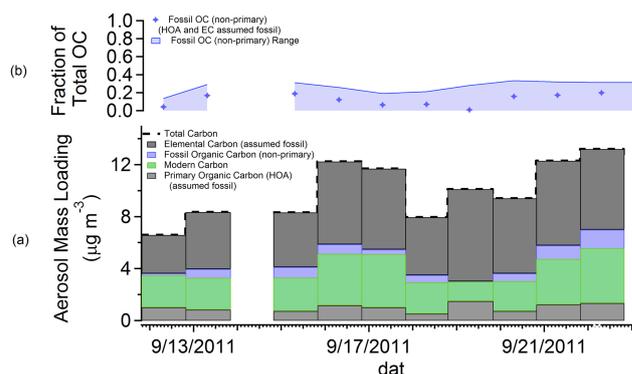


Figure 8. Measured EC and OC, with calculated contribution of non-primary fossil organic carbon (assuming 100 % fossil EC and HOA, a) and assuming partial modern organic carbon EC and HOA contribution (b). The possible fossil OOA (light blue) was calculated by the subtraction of HOA from the fossil-OC fraction (assuming HOA either all fossil, a, or 95 % fossil, b), and EC either all fossil (a) or 5 % + BBOA/3 modern (b).

has been found to be on the order of 3–4 in other areas of France (Crippa et al., 2013), some contribution to EC from biomass burning may have been present at the measurement site. In Fig. 8b, a range of fossil non-primary organic carbon, normalized to total measured organic carbon, is presented. For the upper limit of this range, HOA C and EC were considered to be 95 % fossil and 5 % modern (7 % biodiesel fuel use and an estimated 25 % reduction in particulate emissions from biodiesel fuel). Also for this upper limit, the calculated concentration of BBOA was divided by 3 and used to calculate possible modern EC from biomass burning (Crippa et al., 2013).

Total organic carbon concentration appeared to be more driven by processed/aged OOA concentrations than by primary emissions. During the period with the highest organic concentrations (15–17 September), most of the non-HOA carbon measured was modern carbon. Also during this time period, the winds were slightly more southerly and SO_4 and OOA concentrations increased, which could indicate a more regional contribution to the measured air mass during this time. After a period of heavy rain on 19 September, almost none of the non-HOA organic carbon was fossil; however, this also coincided with a period of increased BBOA, which may have contributed to modern-EC emissions and thus an underestimate of fossil-OC emissions (Fig. 7). At other times during the campaign, HOA concentrations alone could not adequately explain all of the measured fossil organic carbon and additional sources of fossil organic carbon (such as photochemical reactions forming aerosol from vehicular VOC emissions) that would be needed. Additionally, the origin of the NOA factor remains unclear; if fossil in origin, it could explain part of the non-HOA organic fossil carbon measured at the site, further reducing the OOA fossil-C (at times to al-

most 0). Overall, throughout the campaign the majority of OOA observed was most probably modern in origin.

The high levels of modern carbon OOA suggested that biogenic compounds had a large effect on the overall aerosol population in this location, even directly adjacent to a large anthropogenic emission source (i.e., traffic). Interaction between anthropogenic oxidants and biogenic VOCs (or BVOCs) has been found to increase the formation of SOA (Chameides et al., 1988; Goldstein et al., 2009; Shilling et al., 2013), isoprene oxidation reactions leading towards SOA have been shown to vary depending on the level of NO_x (Chen et al., 2014; Kroll et al., 2005; Ng et al., 2007; Xu et al., 2014), and likely BVOC concentrations were greater and the aromatic VOC concentrations were lower in the wider Grenoble Valley.

3.3.2 Differences between diesel-heavy and gasoline-heavy near-roadway measurements

Older diesel vehicles have been shown to emit both higher levels of PM, particularly BC, and higher levels of NO_x . Indeed, high concentrations of NO_x were measured at the field site, up to 450 ppbv ($\text{NO} + \text{NO}_2$) for 15 min averaged measurements. NO_2 levels exceeded the 100 ppbv European hourly limit almost every morning. The campaign average for NO_2 was 94 ± 64 ppbv. For comparison, at a measurement site adjacent to a major highway in New York, Sun et al. (2012) measured an average of 48 ± 30 ppbv NO_2 , about half that of this campaign's average, with 15 min average peaks ranging from 100 to 300 ppbv during high-traffic periods. The hourly traffic concentrations at each site were close (approximately 10 000 vehicles h^{-1} reported during the Sun et al. (2012) measurement periods compared to approximately 8000 vehicles h^{-1} observed during daylight driving hours on Grenoble's highway); thus, increased NO_x cannot be explained by increased traffic. Rather, increased diesel fuel use is a very likely hypothesis.

High levels of BC were also measured in this work. A comparison of the HOA : BC ratio from this study and from previously reported field studies is shown in Fig. 9a. As expected, since the French fleet includes a much higher percentage of diesel cars with increased BC emissions, this ratio was significantly lower than that reported for an urban downwind site in Pittsburgh (1.41, Zhang et al., 2005), a highway-adjacent site in New York (1.02, Sun et al., 2012), an urban/highway site in Ontario (0.7–1.1, Stroud et al., 2012), a rural site in northwest England (1.61–1.91, Liu et al., 2006), and an urban site in Zurich, Switzerland (1.1, Lanz et al., 2007). As for measurements in France, a study in an urban site in Paris observed a HOA : BC ratio of 0.61 (Crippa et al., 2013); this site was most probably influenced by a vehicle fleet similar to Grenoble's, but measurements were collected during winter (lower temperatures) and within Paris (increased urban emissions). Tailpipe measurements of Euro 4 diesel and gasoline-powered vehicles (a Renault Kangoo and

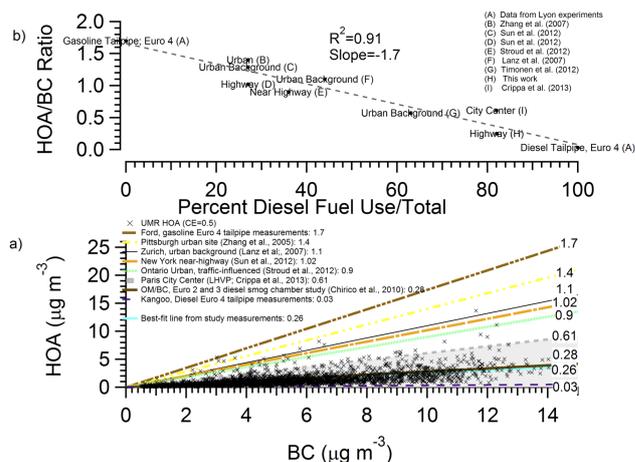


Figure 9. Calculated HOA and measured BC concentrations from the campaign and HOA : BC ratios from previous field campaigns. Grey area is shaded to include a diesel-only environment and two French HOA : BC ratios: from Crippa et al. (2013) and from this study (a). The HOA : BC ratio from various literature sources versus percent diesel fuel use out of total fuel use for the country of study (b).

a Ford Ka, respectively) at IFSTTAR (Institut Français des Sciences et Technologies des Transports, de l'Aménagement et des Réseaux) performed during this PM-DRIVE research program also show a much higher HOA : BC ratio for gasoline vehicles versus diesel vehicles (unpublished data). This was due to much higher BC emissions from the diesel vehicle, as opposed to higher HOA emissions from the gasoline vehicle.

Similarly, the HOA factor measured near Grenoble resembled that measured by Sun et al. (2012) in a high-gasoline environment next to a highway in New York, both in absolute concentration and chemical composition; thus, an increase in BC emissions (from diesel) rather than a reduction in HOA : vehicle number was likely the cause of our low HOA : BC ratio.

The change in HOA : BC ratio as a function of the diesel : gasoline fuel use (Road sector, World Bank, 2011) is shown in Fig. 9b. A decrease in HOA : BC with an increase in percent diesel is clearly observable with a strong correlation ($R^2 = 0.85$, $n = 10$), despite the many different factors possibly influencing BC and HOA concentrations at each location (e.g., local aerosol sources, meteorology). Such a linear relationship between HOA : BC and diesel percentage is very interesting but not necessarily expected, since the emission factors of HOA + BC differ significantly between diesel and gasoline cars, especially for pre-EURO 5 vehicles.

Additionally, an AMS factor with a diurnal pattern peaking during rush hour and with N-containing peaks was observed (see Sect. 3.3). Saarikoski et al. (2012) found a similar amine-containing NOA factor in measurements taken in the Po Valley (Italy) that also had a strong diurnal pattern.

However, their NOA factor was attributed to marine influence due to a correlation with methanesulfonic acid (MSA) (Saarikoski et al., 2012), although it is possible that MSA was from the local industrial use of dimethyl sulfoxide as a solvent and had a higher H : C ratio (1.91) than the factor resolved from this data set (1.38). Like France, Italy has a large percentage of diesel fuel consumption (71 %; World Bank, 2011). Aiken et al. (2009) and Sun et al. (2011) also resolved N-containing OA factors from data measured in Mexico City and New York, respectively, but did not observe a similar diurnal pattern. In the PTR-MS mass spectra results obtained from Euro 5 vehicle emission smog chamber studies, Hellebust et al. (2013) found higher nitrogen-containing emissions from fresh and aged diesel mass than from fresh and aged gasoline mass spectra (e.g., peaks such as CH_4NO_2^+). Similar nitrogen-containing VOC peaks were found by Inomata et al. (2013) in diesel exhaust. Thus, diesel-related emissions could possibly be the source for the observed NOA factor, although no significant correlation between this factor and other vehicular emissions, such as BC, was found. More detail on the NOA factor can be found in the Supplement and Fig. S13.

Finally, only small amounts OOA measured at the field site were calculated to contain fossil OC. Work by Bahreini et al. (2010) found that much of the measured SOA in the Los Angeles Valley was from gasoline passenger cars, not from diesel trucks, and perhaps the relatively low concentration of gasoline vehicles on the road in France is related to the low concentration of fossil OOA.

4 Conclusions

During this campaign, highly time-resolved particle and gas-phase chemical composition and concentration measurements were obtained alongside parallel traffic data of the speed, fluxes, vehicle type, and fuel type of passing cars on a highway in the Grenoble Valley. An analysis of the local primary (traffic) aerosol and the more regional, aged secondary organic aerosol was performed for the PM_{10} fraction observed by the HR-ToF-AMS. The PMF model was run on the high-resolution HR-ToF-AMS aerosol data and six factors were resolved from the bulk aerosol data: (1) an HOA factor related to traffic, (2) a BBOA factor, (3) a regional OOA factor which covaried with sulfate, (4) a MO-OA factor increasing in concentration during sunny afternoons, (5) a LO-OA factor with the opposite diurnal pattern as MO-OA likely due to gas-particle phase partitioning and photochemical processing, and (6) an NOA factor with a diurnal pattern similar to that of HOA and traffic peaks.

The resolved mass spectrum for the HOA factor was chemically similar to mass spectra from both gasoline and diesel-emitted organic carbon and previously resolved HOA factors in high-gasoline environments; however, the HOA : BC ratio measured was low (< 0.3) throughout

the campaign. This ratio agrees with previously reported HOA : BC ratios in high-diesel environments and from direct measurements of diesel emissions in smog chamber and tailpipe measurement studies. The fraction of diesel-powered vehicles on the road appeared to control, to some extent, this ratio. Diesel also influenced local NO_x concentrations, as the measured NO_x was 2 times higher than concentrations near a similarly trafficked highway in New York, USA.

While high levels of both black carbon ($5 \pm 3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) and organic aerosol ($8 \pm 4 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$) were measured, only 20 % of the total organic mass signal could be attributed to primary vehicular emissions (i.e., HOA) when examined. Significant amounts of modern organic carbon were also measured, and fossil carbon appeared to contribute only a small amount to the measured OOA. Although NO_x and VOCs emitted by diesel and gasoline engines, respectively, may have influenced SOA formation in the Grenoble Valley, the majority of OOA measured was modern in origin, even adjacent to a major source of fossil carbon. Whether this is due to a lower overall gas plus particle emission of diesel vehicles, the lack of aromatic compounds in diesel VOC emissions, high NO_x reducing the efficiency of vehicular VOC to SOA formation mechanisms, an acceleration of BVOC to biogenic aerosol formation in the presence of vehicular emissions, or simply the more global source and higher efficiency of BVOC to SOA reactions is unclear, but, in a high-diesel environment, SOA OOA from fossil-fuel carbon was only a small source of the measured OOA, while modern C-containing OOA dominated the organic aerosol mass in the fine fraction of PM_{10} .

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